



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

MAY 17 1999

The Honorable John W. Warner
United States Senator
600 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Senator Warner:

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 1999 on behalf of Dr. Timothy Poland of Redford, Virginia concerning actions by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) in regard to labeling of foods treated with ionizing radiation.

The 1997 FDA Modernization Act (PL 105-115) states that "[n]o provision . . . shall be construed to require on the label or labeling of a food a separate radiation disclosure statement that is more prominent than the declaration of ingredients . . ." FDA published a final rule implementing this provision of the law in the Federal Register of August 17, 1998. A copy of this regulation, along with the pre-existing labeling requirements for food treated with ionizing radiation (21 CFR 179), are enclosed for your information.

In addition, the Statement of Managers accompanying the FDA Modernization Act directed FDA to publish for public comment further proposed changes to the Agency's current labeling regulations. The managers stated their intention that any required labeling be of a type and character such that it would not be perceived to be a warning or give rise to inappropriate consumer anxiety. On February 17, 1999, FDA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register soliciting public comment on whether additional revisions to the current irradiation labeling requirements are needed and, if so, what form such revisions might take.

We have forwarded Dr. Poland's correspondence to the Docket for inclusion in the record. FDA's final approach to labeling of irradiated foods will take into account all of the data and information received.

98N-1038

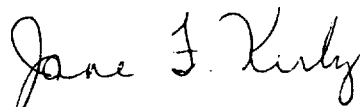
C2025/ANS

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Because your constituent may be concerned about irradiation labeling for meat and poultry, you may also wish to contact the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for information. (USDA has primary regulatory authority over meat and poultry products, including the labeling of such products.)

We have also enclosed some general background on the issue of irradiation. We trust this responds to your concerns.

Sincerely,


for Melinda K. Plaisier
Interim Associate Commissioner
for Legislative Affairs

Enclosures

cc: Dockets Management Branch
(98N-0392 & 98N-1038)

JOHN WARNER
VIRGINIA

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February 4, 1999

Ms. Diane Thompson
Associate Commission for Legislative Affairs
Food and Drug Administration
1555 Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Thompson:

I am writing to bring to your attention the enclosed comments from my constituent concerning the proposed rules on irradiated foods

I would appreciate your reviewing this correspondence and including it in the public comments.

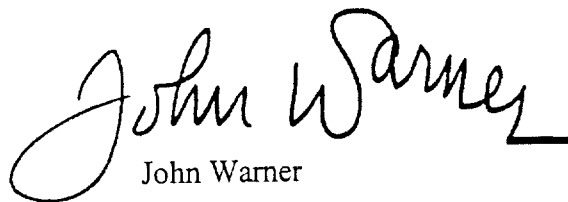
Please send your reply to my state office:

Senator John W. Warner
600 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Thank you for your time and courtesy.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,


John Warner

JW/spr

No 99-900

Please reply to the office indicated: Washington ☐

Richmond ☐

Roanoke ☐

Abingdon ☐

Norfolk ☐

Author: "Gerri Glass" <mainstreet@i-plus.net> at internet
Date: 12/9/1998 12:41 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: senator at Warner_DC
CC: senator robb at Robb-Int, <ninthnet@mail.house.gov> at internet,
<talk2bob@mail.house.gov> at internet,
<rep.goode@mail.house.gov> at internet
Subject: Food Irradiation

Dear Congressman,

I am quite disturbed by the new rules issued by the FDA regarding irradiated foods. The new regulations severely impair a consumer's ability to identify irradiated foods. Previous rules required food treated with radiation to prominently display the "radura" logo along with the words "treated by irradiation." Current regulations now allow for labeling to appear in the same tiny print as ingredient declarations. More importantly, only products containing irradiated ingredients that represent 100% of the total product have to make any mention of irradiation on their labels! Since the American public has made clear its distrust and distaste for food treated with radiation, these new FDA rulings are unconscionable and clearly a means of deluding the consumers.

Irradiation exposes food to as much as 100,000 rads (the equivalent of 400,000 X-rays). Even the FDA admits that irradiation causes nutrient loss. Irradiation technology has not been adequately tested and health and environmental hazards clearly outweigh any potential benefits. Proper food handling and hygiene as the best and safest solutions for food-borne illness, not radiation.

Your assistance to keep our food supply safe is needed. Consumers should have the right to make informed decisions about their food. Please stop the FDA from enacting the new regulations that disempower the public.

Thank you.

Dr. Timothy Poland
Gerri Glass
210 Fifth Street
Radford, VA 24141
(540) 731-3296
mainstreet@i-plus.net

CROSS FILE SHEET

FILE NO: 98N-1038/C2025 ANS

SEE FILE NO: 98N-0392/C2 ANS